

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2416

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

USIA WASHDC

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

USDEL JEC PARIS UNN

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

USLO PEKING

CIA

DIA

JCS

JUSMAAG

WHITE HOUSE

USAJFKCMA/ATCS-WL-DSA

4TH PSYOP GP FT BRAGG NC

CINCPAC

CINCPACAF

CINCPACFLT

DEPCHIEF JUSMAAG UDORN

AMCONSUL BIEN HOA

AMCONSUL CAN THO

AMCONSUL DANANG

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AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

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AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MILI, MARR, EGEN, PGOV, PINR, VN

SUBJ: SAIGON MISSION NORTH VIETNAM BI-WEEKLY NO 27

SUMMARY: THE "PRG" COUNCIL OF MINISTERS MET RECENTLY TO ADOPT GUIDELINES FOR 1975 AND ISSUE A "SPECIAL COMMUNIQUE" ON NON-IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PARIS AGREEMENT. THE "PRG", STRONGLY SUPPORTED BY THE DRV, CONTINUED AN ALL-OUT EFFORT TO OBTAIN A SEAT AT THE GENEVA LAW OF WAR CONFERENCE. DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WERE ESTABLISHED WITH EQUATORIAL GUINEA, BUT COMMUNIST MEDIA JUMPED THE GUN IN CLAIMING INDIAN AGREEMENT ON ESTABLISHING A "PRG" GENERAL DELEGATION" IN DELHI. BOTH THE DRV AND "PRG" PUBLISHED REAMS OF PROPAGANDA TO MARK THE SECOND ANNIVERSARY OF THE PARIS AGREEMENT BUT ADVANCED NO NEW THOUGHTS. "LIBERATION RADIO" TROTTED OUT INTERVIEWS WITH AN AMERICAN DISSENTER WHO RECENTLY VISITED HANOI. RECENT REPORTS INDICATE INCREASING MORALE AND DESERTION PROBLEMS AMONG COMMUNIST TROOPS IN SOUTH VIETNAM. IN NORTH VIETNAM, NATIONAL ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS HAVE BEEN SET FOR APRIL 6. A HOC TAP EDITORIAL OUTLINING ECONOMIC OBJECTIVES FOR 1975 MAKES A PASSING REFERENCE TO A 23RD VWP CENTRAL COMMITTEE PLENUM, THE FIRST INDICATION THAT IT WAS HELD. LT. GEN. PHAM KIET, VICE-MINISTER FOR PUBLIC SECURITY, DIED AFTER AN ILLNESS AND WAS GIVEN AN ELABORATE FUNERAL. A HONG KONG REPORT INDICATES THAT DRV/PRC RELATIONS ARE STILL SMOLDERING DUE TO THE PARACELS DISPUTE. HANOI
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SIGNED AN ECONOMIC AGREEMENT WITH MONGOLIA, AND A ROMANIAN DELEGATION ARRIVED. THE NEW FRENCH AMBASSADOR PRESENTED HIS CREDENTIALS, BUT JAPANESE-DRV RECOGNITION TALKS IN VIENTIANE ARE MOVING SLOWLY. FRIENDSHIP ASSOCIATIONS WITH LAOS AND CAMBODIA HAVE BEEN FORMED IN HANOI. END SUMMARY

PART I: DEVELOPMENT IN THE SOUTH

BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED

A. "PRGRSV" COUNCIL OF MINISTERS MEETS

1. THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS OF THE SO-CALLED "PRGRSV" RELEASED A COMMUNIQUE JANUARY 17 ON ITS FIRST 1975 SESSION. THE SESSION, WHICH REVIEWED THE EVENTS OF THE PAST TWO YEARS, THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE "PRGRSV" IN 1974 AND "TASKS" FOR 1975, WAS CHAIRED BY "PRGRSV" PRESIDENT HUYNH TAN PHAT. IN AN INADVERTENT COMMENT ON THE "PRGRSV" ROLE WITHIN THE COMMUNISTS' SOUTHERN APPARATUS, THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS SESSION ADOPTED AS ITS 1975 GUIDELINES "THE POLITICAL TASKS WORKED OUT" BY THE DECEMBER 13-14, 1974 ENLARGED CONFERENCE OF THE NFLSV CENTRAL COMMITTEE PRESIDUM (SEE NORTH VIETNAM BI-WEEKLY NO 26). THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS SESSION ALSO ADOPTED A "SPECIAL COMMUNIQUE" ON THE STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PARIS AGREEMENT.

B. "PRGRSV" CONTINUES TO SEEK ADMISSION TO LOW CONFERENCE

1. AS PART OF THE COMMUNISTS' CONTINUING EFFORT TO ENHANCE THE INTERNATIONAL STATUS OF THE SO-CALLED "PRGRSV" AT THE EXPENSE OF THE GVN, "PRGRSMBZ FOREIGN MINISTER NGUYEN THI BINH, ON DEC 6, 1974, SENT A NOTE TO PIERRE GRABER, CHIEF OF THE POLITICAL DEPARTMENT OF THE CONFEDERATION OF SWITZERLAND, ASSERTING THE "PRGRSV"'S RIGHT TO PARTICIPATE" IN THE UPCOMING SECOND DIPLOMATIC CONFERENCE ON INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW IN GENEVA. BINH'S NOTE, BROADCAST BY RADIO HANOI ON JAN 22, REPEATED FAMILIAR ARGUMENTS AND ALSO, IN PARTIAL DEPARTURE FROM PREVIOUS CLAIMS THAT THE "PRGRSV" IS THE ONLY LEGITIMATE GOVERNMENT AND REPRESENTATIVE OF THE PEOPLE OF SOUTH VIETNAM, ARGUED THAT THE ALLEGED RECOGNITION BY THE PARIS AGREEMENT OF THE EXISTENCE OF TWO GOVERNMENTS IN SOUTH VIETNAM, ALTHOUGH "ONLY TEMPORARY", REQUIRED THAT EITHER BOTH THE "PRGRSV" AND THE GVN

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"MUST PARTICIPATE IN THE CONFERENCE OR NEITHER MUST".

2. IN A FOLLOW-UP NOTE TO GRABER ON DEC 28, DRV FOREIGN MINISTER NGUYEN DUY TRINH REITERATED BINH'S ARGUMENTS BUT WENT SOMEWHAT FURTHER IN DEFINING THE COMMUNIST VIEW OF THE NATURE OF THE "PRGRSV". LIKE BINH, THE DRV FOREIGN MINISTER ARGUED "THE PARALLEL DE FACTO EXISTENCE OF TWO ADMINISTRATIONS IN SOUTH VIETNAM". BUT, IN AN IMPLICIT REFUTATION OF THE CLAIMS MADE BY AND FOR THE "PRGRSV", TRINH CONTEMPTUOUSLY REFERRED TO THE "SO-CALLED 'STATE OF SOUTH VIETNAM" AS HAVING BEEN "RIGGED UP" IN "VIOLATION OF THE 1954 GENEVA AGREEMENT". THUS, HE ASSERTED, THE GVN, LIKE THE "PRG", HAD "REMAINED ILLEGAL" UNTIL RECOGNIZED BY THE PARIS AGREEMENT.

3. THE BINH-TRINH NOTES APPEAR TO SIGNAL A NEW TWIST IN ATTEMPTS

TO DISCREDIT THE GVN AND PROMOTE THE STATUS OF THE "PRGRSV".
ALTHOUGH THE LONG-TERM EFFECTIVENESS OF THIS APPROACH CANNOT YET
BE JUDGED, THE INTERNAL CONTRADICTION WHICH CHARACTERIZED THESE
NEW ARGUMENTS--THAT THE "PRGRSV" CLAIMS TO REPRESENT AN "ILLEGAL"
STATE--WOULD APPEAR TO BE DAMAGING TO DRV/"PRGRSV" DIPLOMATIC
EFFORTS.

4. A HIGH-POWERED DRV DELEGATION, HEADED BY VICE MINISTER OF
FOREIGN AFFAIRS NGUYEN CO THACH (WHO WAS LE DUC THO'S DEPUTY IN
PARIS DURING THE PEACE NEGOTIATIONS) AND INCLUDING "A NUMBER OF
OTHER AMBASSADORS AND LEGAL SPECIALISTS", LEFT HANOI FOR GENEVA
ON JAN 28. THE COMPOSITION OF THE DELEGATION INDICATES THAT
THE DRV WILL SPARE NO EFFORT TO OBTAIN THE SEATING OF THE "PRG"
AT THE CONFERENCE THIS YEAR, AFTER IT WAS DEFEATED BY ONE VOTE
LAST YEAR. END UNCLASSIFIED.

BEGIN CONFIDENTIAL

C. "PRG" SEARCH FOR RECOGNITION CONTINUES

1. INDIA. VIETNAMESE COMMUNIST MEDIA PROUDLY BUT ERRONEOUSLY
ANNOUNCED THAT THE GOI HAD AGREED JAN 22 TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF
A "PRG GENERAL DELEGATION" IN INDIA. SUBSEQUENT REPORTS FROM
INDIA INDICATE THAT THE COMMUNIST ANNOUNCEMENT WAS UNILATERAL
AND PREMATURE. APPARENTLY THE GOI DID INDICATE TO THE "PRG" THAT
IT WAS READY TO ACCEPT A "PRG PRESENCE" IN DELHI, BUT
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DETAILS STILL MUST BE WORKED OUT AND THE GOI FEELS ITSELF UNDER
NO PRESSURE TO REACH A FINAL AGREEMENT RAPIDLY. PRESUMABLY
HANOI HOPED THAT CLAIMING INDIAN ACCEPTANCE WOULD SWAY VOTES IN
ITS REPRESENTATION FIGHT AT THE SECOND SESSION OF THE GENEVA LAW
OF WAR CONFERENCE. IT REMAINS UNCLEAR WHAT SORT OF OFFICIAL
STATUS THE "PRG" WOULD ENJOY IN DELHI AND HOW IT WOULD COMPARE WITH
THAT OF THE GVN, WHICH MAINTAINS A CONSULATE GENERAL THERE.

END CONFIDENTIAL.

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FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2417

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST 1841

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

USIA WASHDC

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

USDEL JEC PARIS UNN

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

USLO PEKING

CIA

DIA

JCS

JUSMAAG

WHITE HOUSE

USAJFKCMA/ATCS-WL-DSA

4TH PSYOP GP FT BRAGG NC

CINCPAC

CINCPACAF

CINCPACFLT

DEPCHIEF JUSMAAG UDORN

AMCONSUL BIEN HOA

AMCONSUL CAN THO

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2. EQUATORIAL GUINEA. THE "PRG" AND THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF EQUATORIAL GUINEA AGREED JAN 17 TO ESTABLISH DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS AT THE AMBASSADORIAL LEVEL, ACCORDING TO A "PRG" FOREIGN MINISTRY COMMUNIQUE DATED JAN 24. IT SEEMS HIGHLY UNLIKELY THAT RESIDENT AMBASSADORS WILL BE EXCHANGED.

D. DRV, "PRGRSV" ASSESS THE PARIS AGREEMENT

1. VIETNAMESE COMMUNISTS MARKED THE SECOND ANNIVERSARY OF THE SIGNING OF THE PARIS AGREEMENT WITH A BARRAGE OF PROPAGANDA. RADIO HANOI ON JAN 20 BROADCAST THE TEXT OF DRV FOREIGN MINISTER NGUYEN DUY TRINH'S DEC 24 REPORT TO THE 5TH SESSION OF THE DRV NATIONAL ASSEMBLY ON THE STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF THE AGREEMENT. ALTHOUGH TRINH NOTED THAT THE "STRUGGLE" OVER THE PAST TWO YEARS HAD BEEN "VERY ADUROUS AND COMPLEX", HE CLAIMED THAT THE COMMUNIST POSITION IN SOUTH VIETNAM HAD BECOME "MORE ADVANTAGEOUS THAN BEFORE". TRINH CLAIMED THAT THE COMMUNISTS NOW " ARE IN A POSITION TO OBLIGE" THE U.S. AND THE GVN TO "CARRY OUT THE AGREEMENT". TRINH REPEATED THE OCT 8, 1974 DEMANDS OF THE SO-CALLED "PRGRSV" FOR AN END TO U.S. MILITARY AID TO THE RVN AND THE OVERTHROW OF PRESIDENT THIEU AND WARNED THAT THE DRV/"PRGRSV" WOULD CONTINUE TO USE THE PARIS AGREEMENT AS A "SHARP
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WEAPON". ADDRESSING THE ROLE OF NORTH VIETNAM IN THE CURRENT SITUATION, TRINH NOTED THE NEED TO CARRY ON WITH ECONOMIC REHABILITATION AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS, BUT ALSO AFFIRMED THAT THE DRV MUST MAKE "MAXIMUM EFFORTS" TO AID THE SOUTH. TRINH EXPRESSED AT LEAST OBLIGATORY CONFIDENCE IN FINAL VICTORY, BUT NOTED THAT IT WOULD ONLY COME AFTER A "LONG DRAWN-OUT FIGHT FULL OF DIFFICULTIES AND HARDSHIPS".

2. ON JANUARY 24, THE "PRGRSV" FOREIGN MINISTRY ISSUED A WHITE BOOK ENTITLED "FOR THE DEFENSE AND STRICT IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PARIS AGREEMENT ON VIETNAM". THE WHITE BOOK LEVELED LONG-FAMILIAR CHARGES AGAINST THE U.S.: CONTINUED MILITARY AID TO THE RVN; THE PRESENCE OF U.S. MILITARY ADVISORS IN SOUTH VIETNAM; THE POLICY OF DETERRENCE; AND THE CONTINUED APPLICATION OF THE NIXON

DOCTRINE. THE DOCUMENT ALSO REITERATED THE OCT 8 DEMANDS FOR AND
END TO U.S. AID AND THE OVERTHROW OF THIEU AND WARNED OF
"STILL HEAVIER DEFEATS" IF THESE DEMANDS ARE NOT MET. THE WHITE
BOOK ACCUSED THE U.S. AND THE GVN OF ATTEMPTING TO EXPLOIT
"ANXIETY ABOUT THE DANGER OF A BIG WAR" AND SOMEWHAT TORTUOUSLY
REASONED THAT COMMUNIST MILITARY ACTIVITY PREVENTS SUCH A WAR.

3. VWP POLITIBURO MEMBER LE DUC THO ADDRESSED NORTH VIET
TELEVISION AUDIENCES JAN 26 IN SIMILAR TERMS. THE CHARACTER-
IZED THE COMMUNISTS' POSITION IN THE SOUTH AS "GRADUALLY AND
STEADILY ASCENDING" AND WARNED THAT IF THE U.S. AND GVN FAILED
TO ACCEDE TO COMMUNIST DEMANDS, THE DRV/"PRGRSV" WOULD HAVE "NO
CHOICE" BUT TO CONTINUE THE STRUGGLE. ON JAN 27, "NHAN DAN"
EDITORIALLY CALLED THE "PRGRSV" DEMANDS "RATIONAL AND SENSIBLE"
AND CLAIMED THEY WERE CONSISTENT WITH THE PARIS AGREEMENT.
CONCLUDING THAT "THE FORD ADMINISTRATION'S THREATS ARE RIDICULOUS",
THE PAPER EXPRESSED THE COMMUNISTS' DETERMINATION AND ABILITY TO
"INTENSIFY" AND "ACCELERATE THE STRUGGLE" IN THE SOUTH.

4. THE FREQUENT REITERATIONS OF THE OCT 8 "PRGRSV" DEMANDS
PROVIDE STRONG INDICATION OF THE COMMUNISTS' INTENT TO CONTINUE
THEIR ESCALATED MILITARY ACTIVITY AND THEIR BOYCOTT OF THE
NEGOTIATIONS.

E. LIBERATION RADIO CARRIES STATEMENTS BY AMERICAN DISSENTER

1. AS PROMISED (SEE NORTH VIETNAM BI-WEEKLY NO 26), LIBERATION
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RADIO ON JANUARY 23 BROADCAST A VIETNAMESE TRANSLATION OF A
LENGTHY STATEMENT BY FRED BRANFMAN, WHO HAS BEEN IN NORTH VIETNAM
AS PART OF A DELEGATION FROM THE INDOCHINA RESOURCE CENTER.
FRANFMAN'S STATEMENT WAS HIGHLY CRITICAL OF U.S. POLICY OBJECTIVES
IN VIETNAM. HE ALSO CHARGED RVN PRESIDENT THIEU WITH "SEEKING
BY EVERY MEANS POSSIBLE TO PREVENT THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE
PARIS AGREEMENT". BRANFMAN JUSTIFIED NORTH VIETNAMESE MILITARY PRESENCE

IN THE RVN ON THE BASIS OF THE ABSENCE OF ANY SPECIFIC REFERENCE
TO THAT PRESENCE IN THE PARIS AGREEMENT. CONCLUDING THAT CONTINUED
"U.S. INTERVENTION" IN SOUTH VIETNAM IS THE "ROOT CAUSE" OF
CONTINUED WAR, BRANFMAN PREDICTED THAT THE U.S. "WILL BE
FORCED BY THE AMERICAN PEOPLE TO END ITS INVOLVEMENT IN INDOCHINA..."

2. ON JAN 27, LIBERATION RADIO BROADCAST A SECOND STATEMENT BY
BRANFMAN, IN WHICH HE ADDRESSED HIMSELF TO THE ISSUE OF
"POLITICAL PRISONERS" IN SOUTH VIETNAM. BRANFMAN CHARGED THE U.S.
WITH ATTEMPTING TO TURN THE RVN INTO "A MODERN, SOPHISTICATED
POLICE STATE" AND ACCUSED U.S. AMBASSADOR GRAHAM MARTIN OF A
"DISDAINFUL ATTITUDE AND CHEAP TRICKS" WITH REGARD TO THE ALLEGED
IMPRISONMENT OF PERSONS FOR POLITICAL REASONS IN SOUTH VIETNAM.

BRANFMAN ALSO ADMITTED IN HIS STATEMENT THAT HE HAD ENTERED THE RVN "ILLEGALLY" IN 1974. END UNCLASSIFIED.

PART II: MILITARY DEVELOPMENTS

BEGIN SECRET/NOFORN

NVA DESERTIONS AND DISCIPLINE

1. RECENT REPORTS HAVE HIGHLIGHTED MEASURES BEING TAKEN BY COMMUNIST AUTHORITIES IN BOTH NORTH AND SOUTH VIETNAM TO COPE WITH MORALE PROBLEMS AND INCREASING NUMBERS OF MILITARY DESERTERS. ACCORDING TO A RECENT RALLIER, A SINGLE DISTRICT DETENTION CENTER IN NGHE AN PROVINCE IN NORTH VIETNAM HAD AS MANY AS 2,000 INMATES IN MID-DECEMBER 1974, MOST OF WHOM WERE FORMER DESERTERS FROM VC MILITARY REGION 5 ALONG THE CENTRAL COAST OF SOUTH VIETNAM. REQUIRED TO WORK EIGHT HOURS A DAY AT HARD LABOR WITH REDUCED FOOD RATIONS AND SUBJECTED TO THOUGHT REFORM SESSIONS IN THE EVENINGS, MANY OF THE DETAINEES WERE MULTIPLE OFFENDERS, WITH A NUMBER OF DESERTIONS ON RECORD. NORMALLY, A ONE-TIME SECRET

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OFFENDER, WHEN APPREHENDED IN SOUTH VIETNAM, IS SIMPLY REASSIGNED TO A NEW UNIT.

2. VIET CONG PLANNING PAPERS RECENTLY CAPTURED IN VC MR 5 PROVIDE INSIGHT INTO THE STATE OF MORALE AND THE POSSIBLE CAUSES OF NVA DESERTIONS IN THE AREA. ONE SUCH DOCUMENT-- A BINH DINH PROVINCE "RESOLUTION"-- ACKNOWLEDGES FOOD SHORTAGES AND WIDESPREAD DISSILLUSIONMENT AMONG TROOPS AND CADRE OVER THE FACT THAT THE WAR CONTINUES DESPITE THE PARIS ACCORDS AND COMMUNIST VICTORY CLAIMS. ACCORDING TO ONE PASSAGE: "RIGHTIST THOUGHT, PASSIVITY, FEAR OF THE FIERCENESS OF WAR, LOSS OF MORALE BEFORE THE PROSPECT OF A LONG STRUGGLE AND RELIANCE ON OTHERS CONTINUE TO BE OBSTACLES THAT AFFECT SEVERAL ASPECTS OF OUR OPERATIONS. EXPRESSIONS OF INDIVIDUALISM, CORRUPTION, AUTHORITARIAN ATTITUDES, GIVING ORDERS, LICENTIOUSNESS AND VIOLATION OF POLITYC HAVE NOT BEEN OVERCOME, BUT ARE IN FACT STILL INCREASING".

3. ANOTHER REPORT FROM GVN MR 3 INDICATES THAT MORALE PROBLEMS AND DESERTIONS LIKEWISE ARE INCREASING AMONG NVA UNITS THERE. BY THIS ACCOUNT, COSVN, THE COMMUNIST HEADQUARTERS FOR THE SOUTHERN HALF OF THE COUNTRY, HAS BECOME PARTICULARLY CONCERNED ABOUT THE "ATTITUDES" OF "HALF" OF ITS REAR SERVICE PERSONNEL AND HAS ORDERED SECURITY OPERATIVES TO ROUND UP DESERTERS, JAIL THEM AND PUT THEM THROUGH REINDOCTRINATION PRELIMINARY TO THEIR REASSIGNMENT TO COMBAT UNITS. THE DISAFFECTION AMONG THE REAR SERVICE TROOPS REPORTEDLY STEMS IN PART FROM A RECENTHOSVN DECISION TO SHIFT MANY OF THEM TO THE FRONT LINES TO MAKE UP FOR COMBAT CASUALTIES.

4. ACCORDING TO THE REPORT, NVA DESERTERS WHO HAVE SETTLED ALONG THE TAY NINH PROVINCE/CAMBODIAN BORDER NOW NUMBER IN THE THOUSANDS, ARE RESORTING INCREASINGLY TO HOLLIGANISM AND THIEVERY, AND CONSEQUENTLY ARE CAUSING LOCAL CIVILIANS TO MOVE OUT. MOREOVER, THE CAPACITY OF LOCAL REAR SERVICE AND SECURITY UNITS TO HANDLE THESE DISCIPLINARY CASES HAS REPORTEDLY DIMINISHED AS THEIR OWN RANKS HAVE BEEN DEPLETED TO FILL FRONT LINE UNITS.

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FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2418

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

USIA WASHDC

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

USDEL JEC PARIS UNN

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

USLO PEKING

CIA

DIA

JCS

JUSMAAG

WHITE HOUSE

USAJFKCMA/ATCS-WL-DSA

4TH PSYOP GP FT BRAGG NC
CINCPAC
CINCPACAF
CINCPACFLT
DEPCHIEF JUSMAAG UDORN
AMCONSUL BIEN HOA
AMCONSUL CAN THO
AMCONSUL DANANG
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PART III: DEVELOPMENT IN THE NORTH

BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED.

A. DRV NATIONAL ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS SET FOR APRIL 6

THE STANDING COMMITTEE OF THE DRV NATIONAL ASSEMBLY ANNOUNCED JAN 21 THAT ELECTIONS FOR THE FIFTH DRV NATIONAL ASSEMBLY WILL BE HELD APRIL 6. A 25-MEMBER ELECTION COUNCIL, HEADED BY STANDING COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN TRUONG CHINH, WILL SUPERVISE THE PROCEDURE. SUBSEQUENTLY, THE DRV COUNCIL OF MINISTERS ANNOUNCED THAT ELECTIONS FOR LOCAL PEOPLE'S COUNCILS WILL ALSO BE HELD IN APRIL.

B. 23RD PARTY PLENUM HELD

AN EDITORIAL IN THE JANUARY 1975 ISSUE OF "HOC TAP" HAS PROVIDED THE FIRST PUBLIC REFERENCE TO A 23RD PLENUM OF THE VWP CENTRAL COMMITTEE. THE EDITORIAL, WHICH WAS KEYED TO 1975 ECONOMIC TASKS AND OBJECTIVES, (SEE NEXT PARA) REFERRED TO THE DRV'S "WILL TO ACTIVELY STRIVE FOR SATISFACTORY IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RESOLUTIONS OF THE 21ST, 22ND AND 23RD VWP CENTRAL COMMITTEE PLENUMS". NO

DETAILS ON THE CONTENT OF RESOLUTION 23 (OR RESOLUTION 21) WERE PROVIDED, NOR DID "HOC TAP" INDICATE WHEN THE PLENUM WAS HELD. THE EDITORIAL MADE IT CLEAR THAT RESOLUTION 22, WHICH PROBABLY WAS SECRET

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ADOPTED IN JANUARY 1974, REMAINS THE PRINCIPAL DEFINITION OF THE 1974-5 PLAN FOR ECONOMIC RECONSTRUCTION IN THE NORTH.

C. DRV ECONOMIC GOALS FOR 1975 SET

THE JANUARY HOC TAP EDITORIAL OUTLINED NORTH VIETNAM'S ECONOMIC OBJECTIVES FOR 1975. "THIS YEAR WILL BRING THE PERIOD OF ECONOMIC RESTORATION TO AN END AND BEGIN THE PREPARATIONS FOR IMPLEMENTING THE SECOND FIVE-YEAR PLAN (1976- 1980)..." THE WAR IN

THE SOUTH IS HARDLY FORGOTTEN, HOWEVER; AMONG THE "MAIN TASKS" FOR THE YEAR IS "TO MEET THE NEEDS OF NATIONAL DEFENSE AND SUPPORT THE REVOLUTIONARY STRUGGLE AND THE BUILDING OF THE LIBERATED ZONE OF THE SOUTHERN COMPATRIOTS".

ACCORDING TO THE EDITORIAL, NATIONAL INCOME IS TO INCREASE BY 19.5 PERCENT, INDUSTRIAL OUTPUT BY 22 PERCENT, AGRICULTURAL OUTPUT BY 8.6 PERCENT, CAPITAL INVESTMENT BY 41.5 PERCENT, AND EXPORTS BY 30 PERCENT. AS USUAL, NO ABSOLUTE OUTPUT FIGURES WERE PROVIDED.

D. PUBLIC SECURITY VICE-MINISTER DIES

1. LIEUTENANT GENERAL PHAM KIET, WHO HAD SERVED AS DRV VICE-MINISTER OF PUBLIC SECURITY AND POLITICAL OFFICER AND COMMANDER OF THE PEOPLE'S ARMED PUBLIC SECURITY FORCE SINCE 1960, DIED JAN 23, AT THE AGE OF 63, AFTER A "PERIOD OF ILLNESS". THE DRV DECLARED AN OFFICIAL THREE-DAY MOURNING PERIOD FOR KIET AND BANNED ALL "ENTERTAINMENT ACTIVITIES" DURING THAT PERIOD.

2. FUNERAL SERVICES FOR KIET WERE HELD JAN 25 AND WERE ATTENDED BY VICE-PRESIDENT NGUYEN LUONG BANG, THE ENTIRE VWP CENTRAL COMMITTEE POLITIBURO (WITH THE EXCEPTION OF COSVN CHIEF PHAM HUNG), AND A NUMBER OF OTHER HIGH-RANKING PARTY AND GOVERNMENT FIGURES. PUBLIC SECURITY MINISTER TRAN QUOC HOAN DELIVERED THE EULOGY. END UNCLASSIFIED.

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E. DRV STILL MIFFED AT CHINA

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ACCORDING TO A HONG KONG-BASED DRV OFFICIAL, CHINESE INTERVENTION IN THE PARACELS ISLANDS DISPUTE STILL RANKLES. THE OFFICIAL IMPLIED STRONGLY TO A THIRD-COUNTRY SOURCE RECENTLY THAT AN UNPUBLICIZED DRV PROTEST HAD BEEN MADE ON THE PARACELS ISSUE LAST YEAR. SINCE THE DISPUTE, HE SAID, PRC GROUPS TRANSITING NORTH VIETNAM WITH SUPPLIES TO "PRG" GROUPS IN SOUTH VIETNAM HAVE BEEN REQUIRED TO OBTAINED DRV ENTRY AND EXIT PERMITS. THE OFFICIAL ALSO ASSERTED THAT CHINESE SUPPORT FOR THE DRV IS GIVEN MORE STINTINGLY THAN IS SOVIET. "WE ONLY KNOW THE CHINESE WILL NOT OPPOSE US". HE SAID. END SECRET/NOFORN

BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED

F. DRV ECONOMIC CONTACTS

THE DRV AND MONGLIA SIGNED AN AGREEMENT ON GOODS EXCHANGE AND PAYMENTS FOR 1975 IN HANOI JAN 27, ACCORDING TO VNA. MEANWHILE, A ROMANIAN ECONOMIC DELEGATION LED BY DEPUTY PRIMIN RADULESCU, ARRIVED IN HANOI JANUARY 28 FOR A MEETING OF THE JOINT GOVERNMENT COMMISSION FOR ECONOMIC, TECHNICAL, AND SCIENTIFIC COOPERATION.

G. DRV DIPLOMATIC DEVELOPMENTS

1. NEW FRENCH AMBASSADOR TO HANOI. FRENCH AEP TO THE DRV, PHILIPPE RICHER, PRESENTED HIS CREDENTIALS TO VICE PRESIDENT NGUYEN LUONG BANG IN HANOI JANUARY 23, ACCORDING TO VNA. END UNCLASSIFIED.

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2. JAPANESE-DRV RECOGNITION NEGOTIATIONS CONTINUE.

TALKS BETWEEN THE DRV AND GOJ IN VIENTIANE RESUMED IN LATE DECEMBER. THE GOJ HAS REPORTEDLY REFUSED A DRV DEMAND TO RECOGNIZE THE "PRG" AND WILL DELAY SETTING UP EMBASSIES IN HANOI AND TOKYO UNTIL ADEQUATE QUARTERS ARE SUPPLIED IN HANOI. TALKS NOW CENTER ON GOJ AID TO THE DRV, WITH THE DRV APPARENTLY WILLING TO ACCEPT 5 BILLION YEN GRANT INITIALLY WITH REMAINDER TO BE NEGOTIATED LATER.

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H. FRIENDSHIP COMMITTEES FORMED

THE VIETNAM-LAOS FRIENDSHIP ASSOCIATION WAS FORMED IN HANOI
JAN 14. ON JAN 21, A VIETNAM-CAMBODIA FRIENDSHIP ASSOCIATION
AOS WAS FORMED IN HANOI. BEYOND THE EXPRESSED "AIM OF
CONSOLIDATING AND DEVELOPING" PEOPLE-TO-PEOPLE RELATIONS, NO
EXPLANATION FOR THE FORMATION OF THE ASSOCIATIONS AT THIS TIME HAS
BEEN PROVIDED BY HANOI. THE VIETNAM-LAOS ORGANIZATION IS APPARENTLY
A REFLECTION OF CLOSER RELATIONS BETWEEN THOSE COUNTRIES SINCE
THE FORMATION OF THE PGNU AND A CONTINUATION OF DRV EFFORTS TO
STRENGTHEN TIES WITH THAT COUNTRY. HOWEVER, WHY SUCH AN ORGANIZATION
HAD NOT BEEN ESTABLISHED EARLIER WITH CAMBODIA IS NOT KNOWN.

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